

AL.1.1305  
C.2

**January 2002**



**English 30**  
**Part A: Written Response**  
**Grade 12 Diploma Examination**

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January 2002  
**English 30**  
**Part A: Written Response**  
**Grade 12 Diploma Examination**

*Description*

**Part A: Written Response** contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments.

- **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

*Value* 15% of total examination mark

- **Literary Composition Assignment**

*Value* 35% of total examination mark

**Time: 2 ½ hours.** This examination was developed to be completed in 2 ½ hours; however, you may take an additional ½ hour to complete the examination.

Plan your time carefully.

*Instructions*

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- You may use the following print or electronic references:
  - an English and/or bilingual dictionary
  - a thesaurus
  - an authorized writing handbook
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and for your written work.
- Use blue or black ink for your written work.

*Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors*

- Format your work using an **easy-to-read** 12-point or larger font such as Times.
- Double-space your final copy.
- Staple your final printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for each assignment. Hand in all work.
- Indicate in the space provided on the back cover that you have attached word-processed pages.

**Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.**

**Feel free to make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.**

## Instructions

- Because the Reader's Response to Literature Assignment is thematically connected to the Literary Composition Assignment, read **both** assignments before you begin.
- The Reader's Response to Literature Assignment is designed to assist you in the exploration of ideas you will discuss in the Literary Composition; therefore, we recommend you complete the Reader's Response assignment first.
- Read the poem "The Word" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.

### The Word

We ride up softly to the hidden  
oval in the woods, a plateau rimmed  
with wavy stands of gray birch and white pine,  
my horse thinking his thoughts, happy  
in the October dapple, and I thinking  
mine-and-his, which is my prerogative,

both of us just in time to see a big doe  
loft up over the four-foot fence, her white scut  
catching the sun and then releasing it,  
soundlessly clapping our reveries shut.  
The pine grove shivers as she passes.  
The red squirrels thrill, announcing her departure.

Come back! I want to call her,  
we who mean you no harm. Come back and show us  
who stand pinned in stopped time to the track  
how you can go from a standing start  
up and over. We on our side, pulses racing  
are synchronized with your racing heart.

I want to tell her, Watch me  
mornings when I fill the cylinders  
with sunflower seeds, see how the chickadees  
and lesser redbreasted nuthatches crowd  
onto my arm, permitting me briefly  
to stand in for a tree,

*Continued*

and how the vixen in the bottom meadow  
I ride across allows me under cover  
of horse scent to observe the education  
of her kits, how they dive for the burrow  
on command, how they re-emerge at another  
word she uses, a word I am searching for.

Its sound is o-shaped and unencumbered,  
the see-through color of river,  
airy as the topmost evergreen fingers  
and soft as pine duff underfoot  
where the doe lies down out of sight;  
take me in, tell me the word.

*Maxine Kumin\**

**Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**  
(Suggested time: approximately 30 to 45 minutes)

One interpretation of this poem is that the speaker is observing a world she longs to experience.

**What does the poem convey to you about our responses to circumstances that are beyond familiar experience? Support your response with reference to detail from the poem.**

*Planning*

\*For Biographical Note, see credit page.  
There is additional space for planning on pages 4, 6, and 8.



## Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

### *Planning*

There is additional space for planning on pages 6 and 8.



## Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

### *Planning*

There is additional space for planning on page 8.





## Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

### *Planning*

## Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

### Written Work



## Literary Composition Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 1½ to 2 hours)

Characters' responses to events and experiences that are beyond familiarity shape and alter their lives and the lives of others.

**Write a composition based on literature that you have studied in which the writer examines characters' responses to unfamiliar situations in their lives. What idea(s) does the writer develop regarding responses to circumstances beyond familiar experience?**

### Reminders for Writing

- **Select** literary examples that are relevant to this assignment and interesting to you from the short stories, novels, plays, poetry, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You should be very familiar with the literature you choose to discuss. You must focus your discussion on literature *other than* the poem provided in this examination booklet. You **may** choose to discuss more than one selection.
- **Focus** your composition on your controlling idea about responses to circumstances beyond familiar experience. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are developing and supporting your controlling idea in response to *this* assignment.
- **Support** and develop your controlling idea with evidence from the literature that you choose to discuss.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly, effectively, and coherently presented.

**Literary Composition Assignment**

*Initial Planning*

You may use this space for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Title(s) of literature and  
name(s) of writer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your controlling idea \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

There is additional space for planning on even-numbered pages.

**Literary Composition Assignment**

*Planning*



*If you are using a word processor, staple your **Literary Composition** here.*  
*You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).*

## Literary Composition Assignment

### Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

There is additional space for written work on odd-numbered pages.

## Literary Composition Assignment

*Planning*

## Literary Composition Assignment

### Written Work



## Literary Composition Assignment

*Planning*

## Literary Composition Assignment

### Written Work

## Literary Composition Assignment

*Planning*



## Literary Composition Assignment

### Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Literary Composition Assignment

*Planning*



## Literary Composition Assignment

*Planning*

## Literary Composition Assignment

### Written Work



## Literary Composition Assignment

*Planning*

## Literary Composition Assignment

### Written Work

## Literary Composition Assignment

### *Planning*



## Literary Composition Assignment

*Planning*





## **Literary Composition Assignment**

*Planning*

## Literary Composition Assignment

### Written Work

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### **Credit**

Maxine Kumin. "The Word" from *Connecting the Dots* (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1996). Reprinted under the Alberta Government Print Licence with CanCopy (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency).

### **Biographical Note**

Maxine Kumin (1925– )

Kumin has published 11 volumes of poetry, as well as novels, short stories, and essays on country living. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1973.

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